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**BASEMENT  
SUBLET  
ISSUE  
#2  
MARCH  
2015**

# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR MAGAZINE



**"THE BEAST FROM THE  
BEGINNING OF TIME"  
BY RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN**



**CREMATIA MORTEM  
AN INTERVIEW**

**WICHITA, KANSAS MOVIE HOST 'OL' FLICK"**

**JIM ERICKSON: AN APPRECIATION**

**BY BEN URISH**

**ALSO:**

- HAUNTED MEMORIES OF JOYLAND AMUSEMENT PARK**
- GUNTHER DEDMUND'S TOP 25 EPISODES**
- COMPLETE BSOH COLLECTOR CARD LIST**

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# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR MAGAZINE

MARCH 2015, ISSUE #2

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## STAFF:

**EDITOR/ADDITIONAL ARTWORK/LAYOUTS - JOEL SANDERSON**

**GUEST EDITOR - DAVE TOPLIKAR**

**WRITERS - BEN URISH, RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN, & JOEL SANDERSON**

**COVER PHOTO & BACK COVER PHOTO COLLAGE BY JOEL SANDERSON**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERTA SOLOMON & JEFF KILIAN**

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: BEN URISH & TIM MANNING**

**ADDITIONAL ARTWORK: WES WEDMAN, MATT ORSMAN**

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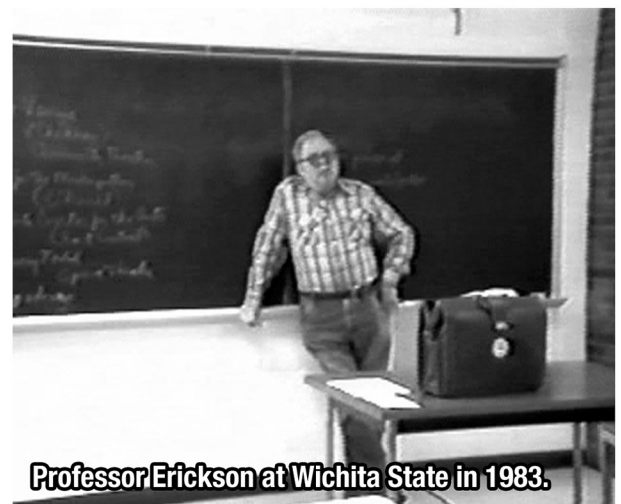
# JIM ERICKSON: AN APPRECIATION



BY BENJAMIN K. URISH

Jim Erickson certainly defines the phrase “local celebrity” for the mid-Kansas region. Though for 15 years he has been retired from his profession and from most of the activities that made him a celebrity, he remains a beloved and recognized figure in the state.

Erickson never sought his regional fame, but found it naturally through his interests and civic-minded activities. He came to Wichita in 1964, to begin work as an associate professor of English at Wichita State University; his specialty: 18th century English literature. What cinched his hiring was his interest in cinema. English Department Chairperson Walter Merrill had connections to The Wichita Film Society and was planning on developing a Film Studies program at WSU. Erickson fit into his plans nicely, developing a course on “Narrative in literature and Film”, a popular class that Erickson taught for more than 30 years. The course compared novels and short stories with their cinematic counterparts.



Professor Erickson at Wichita State in 1983.

In order to schmooze with the arts and theater - and therefore film - crowd, Merrill encouraged Erickson to audition for local plays and theatrical spectacles. Erickson did, and was soon a recurring staple at such annual events as Commedia and Gridiron. Commedia was an evening of sketch comedy parodying and satirizing the last year’s local events and put on by the region’s top



## **JIM ERICKSON, AN APPRECIATION, CONTINUED...**

theatrical talents. Gridiron was similar, but was mounted and peopled by the area's TV, radio, and newspaper professionals and dealt more with their concerns. In addition to performing, Erickson contributed to the writing of the skits. His litany of local ills in the form of Richard III's "Now is the Winter of Our Discontent" - which he wrote in Shakespeare's style - was a particular success. He also could be seen in supporting roles in numerous other productions throughout the years.

Erickson's talent for playing comically amiable eccentrics did not go unnoticed and he began receiving offers to appear in commercials for regional companies, though he never tried to make that a serious part of his career. A long-running series of television commercials for Sta Krisp potato chips made him a recognizable figure beyond the confines of the campus and local theater. His character in these ads was named Leonard Kratzlowe, a pitiable goof whose one joy in life was the consumption of the aforementioned snack item.

The ads might have run their course sooner except that Sta Krisp entered an agreement with Joyland, a local theme park. Bags of chips included small blue circular plastic coins named "Blue chip fun chips" good for free rides (or reduced prices) at the theme park. Kratzlowe - and therefore Erickson - picked up a legion of childhood fans that would not forget him as the years went by. Such was Kratzlowe's impact that a pseudo fan club was marketed, and Leonard Kratzlowe T-shirts were sold featuring the slogan "Eat My Chips."



**Sta-Krisp Fun Chip, front & back.**

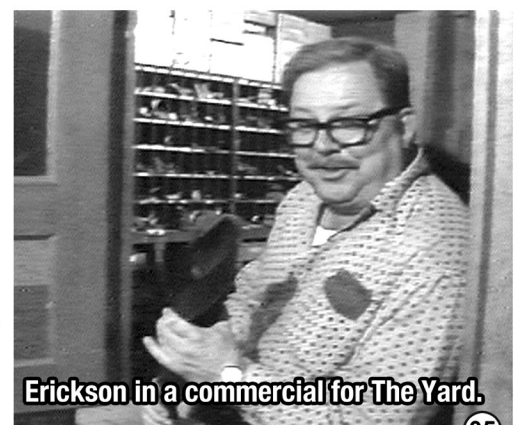
But all good things come to an end and so it was with Leonard Kratzlowe when the chip company was bought out and ceased production. But Erickson was a proven marketing success and while continuing his theater and scholarly work he began another series of successful television commercials for a surplus goods store called The Yard. Clearly a variation on the Kratzlowe persona ("Less pathetic" according to Erickson), the unnamed character gleefully detailed the wide variety of disparate items he had found at the store for purchase. The scripts were patterned in a rhythm that was part Clement Clarke Moore and part Dr. Seuss, adding a further dose of unreality to the proceedings. After a few commercials, viewers had to wonder just what this guy was doing with all those odd things he kept buying.



**Ol' Flick at KAKE TV during the '80s.**



**Ol' Flick hosting a 3-D movie in 1983.**



**Erickson in a commercial for The Yard.**



## **JIM ERICKSON, AN APPRECIATION, CONTINUED...**

A local television station, KAKE-TV, had led the way with regional on-air talent. Erickson's involvement with film studies and the Wichita Film Society (then housed at the University), coupled with his by then irrefutable celebrity status led the station's president Martin Umansky to offer him a job introducing old movies for a late-night program called Night Watch. Erickson created "Ol' Flick" an excitable film fan that would eagerly spout factoids and trivia about the film at various points in the broadcast. The series proved very popular and had a long run, and as the show continued, Ol' Flick mellowed a bit.



Film critics Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert broke on the national scene with a show that featured them debating the merits of new films and the WSU campus television station decided to use Erickson to anchor a similar program. Another with ties to the Wichita Film Society, Vivien Minschull-Ford, became his co-anchor and the show was titled The Screening Room.



At more or less the same time that cable TV changed the viewing habits of the public and the advertising methods of local businesses, Erickson began to lose interest in performing on the stage and hustling for commercial work was something he had never really done. The local PBS station had bought a package of less-than-classic films and called upon Erickson to add some much needed zip to the broadcasts. Erickson took the mellower version of his Ol' Flick character, but tempered him with his own real persona as evidenced from his appearances on The Screening Room. The character, never actually named in the PBS series, was now calmer, avuncular, and more scholarly, sipping coffee and wearing a tattered sweater while introducing the "B" movies. To the public at least, this was assumed to be the real Jim Erickson. The series continued with further film packages.

Erickson's provincial notoriety landed him a pivotal role in a couple of notable film appearances. One is the "legendary" Kirby's Party Reel made by another local celebrity, Randall Parker. Parker was a commercial filmmaker who was most known for his independent feature The Shortest Straw and for making the first Pizza Hut commercials. He shot footage of parties at a local offbeat/counter-culture/hipster bar and added to it year after year, including filming patrons reactions to other versions of the film. Erickson is also in King Kung Fu (1976) playing a key role early in the quirky production; and he also appears in The Parade (1984), a made for TV

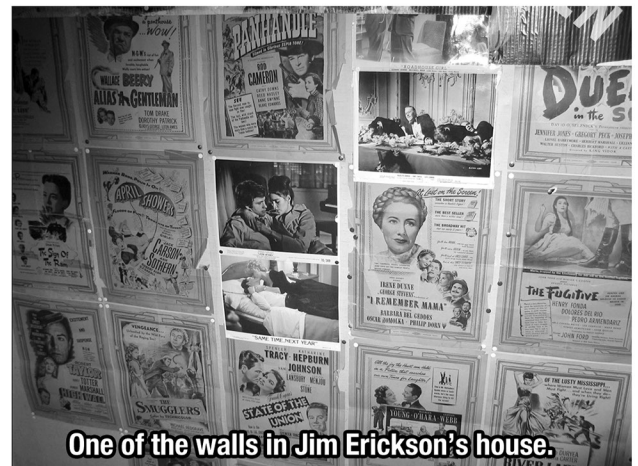
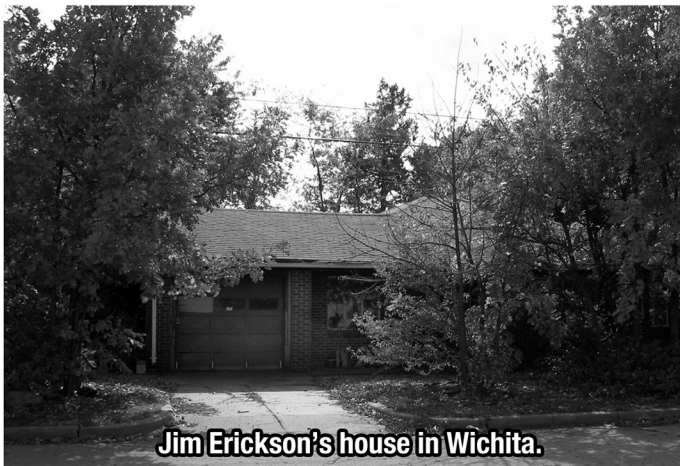


drama. Erickson is part of the light comic relief that an all-too-brief glimpse of the type of performances he was noted for on stage.

But Erickson's celebrity was not all due to his acting and media scholarship. Living close to campus, he became known for hosting "open parties," meaning that if you knew about it, you were invited, and for three and a half decades, people came in droves. Scheduled three or four times a year at key holidays, the parties were even covered in the local news media.



Party attendees spread stories of Erickson's unique home decoration. Posters and movie stills covered almost every inch of the walls and ceilings of nearly every room. Media memorabilia were stacked and packed from floor to ceiling. Erickson had an addition built to help house his growing collection - and it filled up and soon matched the rest of his home's décor.



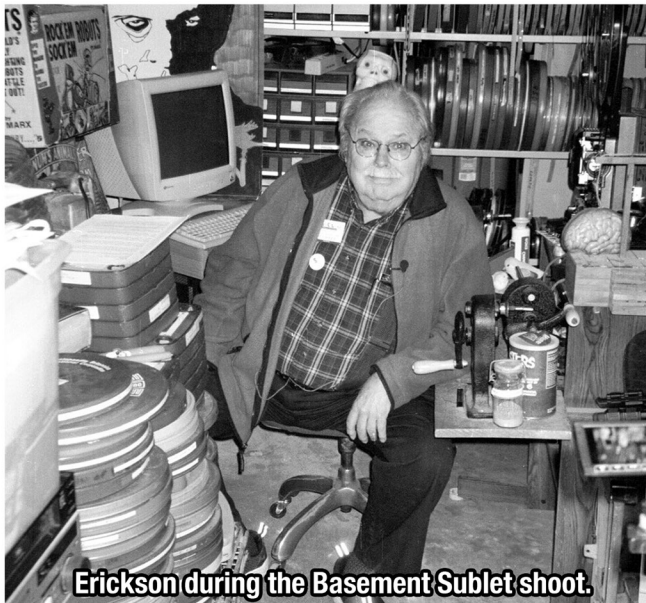
He also has been noted for his community volunteer work. Among his many civic actions, Erickson has worked the election polling venues for several years. He has chaired the Friends of the Wichita Public Library committee and has been an active member. He has given numerous lectures and presentations on many topics in film and literature and has volunteered for the City Parks organization. He has also delivered flyers and newsletters for neighborhood improvement groups.

In addition to his work for the Wichita Film Society, Erickson has taken part in numerous screenings and film discussion groups and supported regional filmmakers and scholars. Furthermore, he helped organize a social volleyball team and was part of the local Turnup Club - anyone who decided to "turn up" was an automatic member and a variety of topic and events were discussed and engaged in.

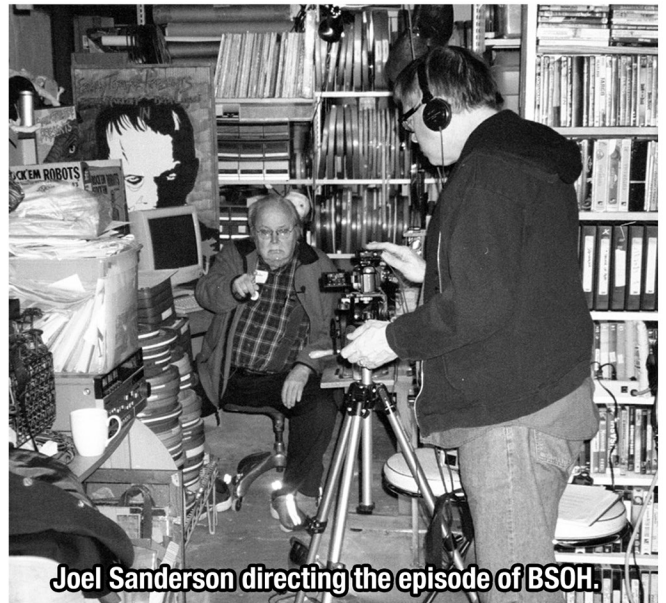


From the mid-1970s on, Erickson was also on radio, most notably doing two-minute reviews of recent films for KMWU, the campus FM station. He continues that to this day and it, along with a monthly film column for the publication The East Wichita News, continues to this day. He still helps at the voting polls and volunteers for the library Friends, and is still giving special lectures to local groups and supporting film clubs.

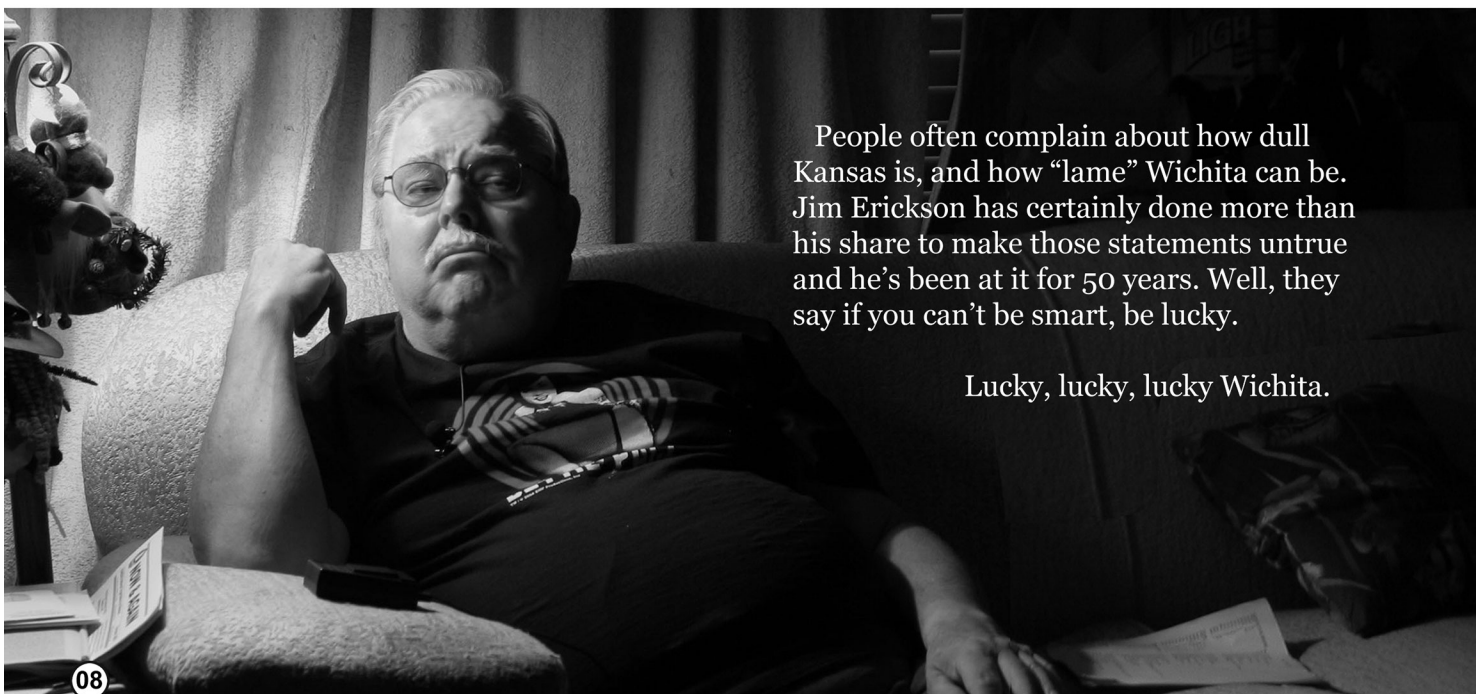
Last year, he jokingly said he was “starting his comeback” by hosting two episodes of The Basement Sublet of Horror, a television production syndicated out of Lawrence, Kansas - as readers of this surely know. “This is what is left of Ol’ Flick” he mournfully said to introduce himself. Check out BSOH Episodes 275 and 279 and if you like them, let us know - perhaps he will do more.



Erickson during the Basement Sublet shoot.



Joel Sanderson directing the episode of BSOH.



People often complain about how dull Kansas is, and how “lame” Wichita can be. Jim Erickson has certainly done more than his share to make those statements untrue and he’s been at it for 50 years. Well, they say if you can’t be smart, be lucky.

Lucky, lucky, lucky Wichita.



## JIM ERICKSON, AN APPRECIATION, - ADDITIONAL PHOTO PAGE



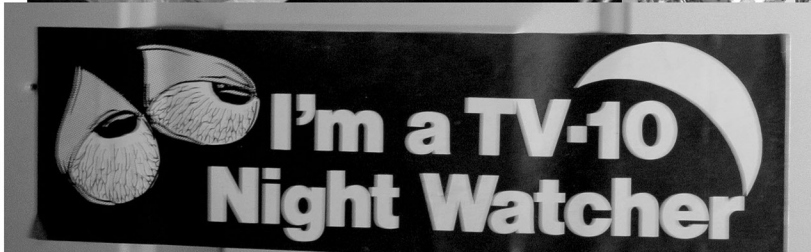
Jim Erickson, 2012



The sign from Ol' Flick's desk at KAKE TV.



Jim's house with Halloween decorations.



KAKE TV bumper stick for Ol' Flick's show.



The Yard commercial, 1983.



Jim Erickson & author Ben Urish visit Lawrence in 2012.



PODCAST - REVIEWS - ARTICLES - WOMEN OF HORROR - TRAILERS



FROM THE BLACK LAGOON FROM HORROR TO COMEDY TO WESTERNS, ALL GENRES ARE WELCOME!



A black and white promotional banner for '86'd Studios'. The logo features the text '86'd' in a large, stylized font, with 'STUDIOS' written below it. The background is a collage of various horror and comic book elements, including a horse, a man with a knife, and a woman with a knife. The text '86'd STUDIOS ARE THE CREATORS OF 86'd: AN ALTERNATIVE HORROR ANTHOLOGY OF COMIX AND ART INTENDED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES.' is written in a bold, outlined font. The email address '86dstudios@gmail.com' is written in a bold, outlined font. The website address 'WWW.86DSTUDIOS.COM' is written in a bold, outlined font at the bottom right.

# THE BEAST LIVES AGAIN, AS FORGOTTEN HORROR FILM RESURFACES

by Richard Chamberlain



In 1965, if you were a horror movie fan, you almost certainly read Famous Monsters magazine, if you could get a copy at your local drugstore or news stand. You might have rummaged through some old EC comics like *The Vault of Horror* or *The Haunt of Fear*. You may have watched movies on a fuzzy UHF channel or paid one dollar at a local theater to see Boris Karloff in *Die, Monster, Die!* or Peter Cushing in *The Skull*. However, one movie you never got the chance to see was "The Beast From The Beginning of Time." Made in Wichita, KS, this obscure film was never released theatrically until 2004, when it finally debuted at the Wichita Orpheum. Outside of some limited television viewings, the number of people who have seen or even heard of it has only recently started to grow. Now, it's time for "The Beast" to rise once again and have his story finally revealed.

If there is one man who can be called the driving force behind this forgotten gem, his name was Tom Leahy. Born in the little Oklahoma town of Pawhuska, in 1941 Tom took the first step on a journey that would lead him into a collision course with "The Beast." He entered broadcasting at KFJH radio with a show through Wichita State University called "This Week in History." He would soon become a published author with two short science fiction stories, titled "One Martian Afternoon" and "The Tape Jockey." He then began work at local ABC affiliate KAKE TV and it was there that he created his first on screen persona, The Host. KAKE TV had acquired the Shock Theater movie package and needed a horror host, a still relatively new idea for television. With a sidekick named Rodney, one of the earliest horror hosts hit the small screen.



Broadcaster Tom Leahy





**Tom Leahy, promo still for his television show *Nightmare: The Host & Rodney***

When he moved to the local CBS and NBC affiliates, he brought his character with him.

By 1965, low budget horror flicks had become staples of double features and drive-ins. How much money was spent on films, now considered classics, like *Little Shop of Horrors* or *The Terror*? Tom decided it would be fun to make his own movie and took a chance by approaching KARD TV with the idea. In today's world, no local station would think of making a movie. Even back then, the idea was unheard of. He had already written a script, and through his television work, he was as prepared as many others in Hollywood. For whatever reason, KARD TV agreed to fund the film. Now, the hard part was to follow: could he bring together the talent needed to pull this off?

Tom was well-respected in Wichita. By 1965, he had become well-established through his own screen roles of *The Host* and, even more prominently, *Major Astro*, an afternoon kiddie show host. Introducing cartoons by day, Tom gathered his cast not from Hollywood, but from the talent base

Wichita had to offer. The plot of the film was formulaic: a group of archaeologists discovers the body of a caveman encased in rock near a river bed. The caveman comes back to life, thanks to the ever present thunderstorm and lightning. Even if you've seen only a handful of films from the '50s and '60s, you know that this a recipe for disaster.

Dick Welsbacher, a local Wichita State University professor, played archeologist Morey. Morey is a man obsessed and the typical type who has lost touch with reality and replaced it with dreams of fame and fortune. Ralph Seeley played John, another archeologist who flies to the site at the beginning of the movie. John Froome, often referred to as a tremendous local talent, played Paul, John's archeologist colleague. Ralph and John were the heroes of the film, the type of role that might have been played by the likes of a John Agar had the movie been filmed in Hollywood with a bigger budget. Webb Smith, a local sportscaster, plays the hired muscle and, unsurprisingly, the eventual first victim of *The Beast* ... although, being impaled by a shovel was pretty rare in 1965.



**Tom Leahy, as "The Beast".**

The archeologists work for a local museum and must deal with a sarcastic official named Ford, played by local legend Henry Harvey. Harvey is still remembered today for hosting two kiddie shows, one of which is still entertaining for yet another generation of

Wichita youngsters. Harvey played the character of Freddy Fudd, Elmer Fudd's brother, as he introduced Warner Brothers cartoons from his treehouse. However, every Thanksgiving, he would put on the red suit and become Santa Claus. If you grew up in Wichita at any time from the '50s to the present, you've watched Santa's Toyshop. You know of his sidekick KAKeman and of zooming around the world on Christmas Eve. Harvey has since passed away but his son continues the tradition. At a time when local stations have long since abandoned local programming for whatever nationally syndicated court show they can get, KAKE TV takes a new generation to the North Pole every December. Needless to say, with a buildup like that, you now know Harvey's character of Ford is a highlight of the film the comedic relief that most films of this type need to lighten the mood when things get too dark.



Henry Harvey as Freddy Fudd, Joyland 1960s

While the remaining cast was filled with other local "talent," Tom would take on the roles of producer and director as well. However, a little-known fact is that he also played The Beast. Tom did his own makeup for his character of The Host, so he naturally did his own makeup for The Beast. Think of a typical caveman buried in rock for thousands of years, revived by lightning, and you've got The Beast. Tom would not take credit for The Beast on screen; that honor goes to Nelson Strong, the name Tom used for the film.



Filming would begin quickly and took place over evenings and weekends around everyone's real day jobs. In a televised interview with the surviving cast members in 1980, they all revealed they enjoyed making the movie and most would do it again. However, the magic ingredient, and most likely primary source of payment, was revealed: beer! Location shooting for the archeological site was done in the summer of 1965 in 102 degree heat at



Lake Afton, just west of Wichita. Another primary site was the old Wichita Airport, now a museum located in south Wichita. KARD TV became a Hollywood studio, serving as the primary site for office and museum scenes. The exact production cost has never been revealed but would be comparable to many direct-to-video movies of today, minus the money spent on bad CGI and forgotten '80s pop music icons or TV stars.

While the time spent together was clearly a fun experience for all involved, the next step in the process never happened. The movie was finished relatively quickly, but *The Beast From The Beginning of Time* seemed destined to be lost in time. The completed product sat on shelf at KARD for years, collecting dust and becoming a memory. Tom felt the movie was embarrassing and never thought anyone would have an interest in it. Anyone who has ever purchased a Mill Creek collection knows that to be wrong. Some of the cast continued to be a part of Wichita's television community while others returned to their day jobs. Tom even appeared in another movie filmed in Wichita called *King Kung Fu*. That "classic" took 13 years to complete. Meanwhile, the dust continued to collect on *The Beast's* film canister.

Then, in 1980, for reasons unknown, the decision was made to air the movie as part of a Halloween trick or treat. Many of the cast reminisced about the film in an on-screen promo. Leahy would resurrect this character of The Host to introduce the film. A gag rating of NG (Not Good) was played before the movie started. Older viewers enjoyed seeing their local favorites as they appeared 15 years earlier. Young horror movie fans enjoyed watching a movie they'd never seen or even heard about. And as quickly as the hype started, it was over. The movie was returned to the canister and the dust would collect once again.

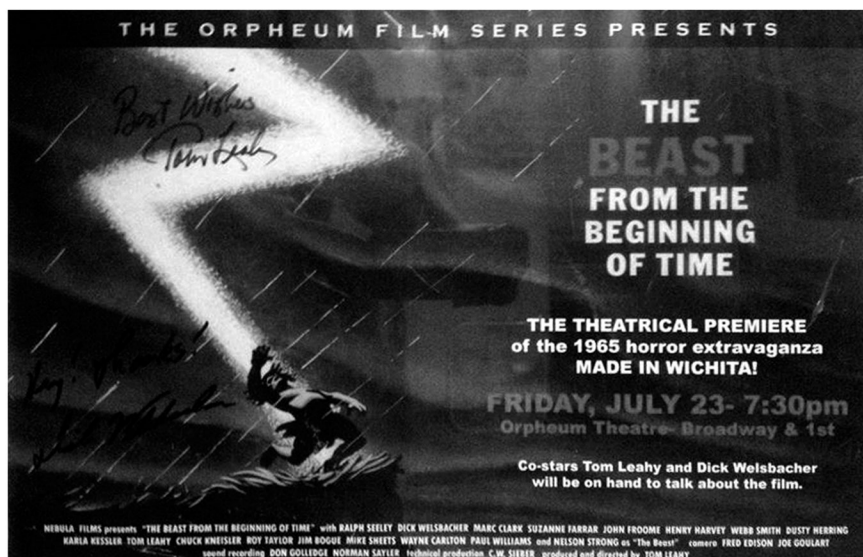


Photo of the special edition poster produced for the 2004 Orpheum Theater screening (Image courtesy of Matt Orsman).

In the years that followed, many of the cast would pass away, including Henry Harvey. Tom would reprise his Major Astro and The Host characters in the late '80s and early '90s for a new generation of viewers before retiring. He was inducted into the Kansas Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2004, The Wichita Orpheum, a local movie theater in the process of a long restoral to its past glory days, presented the film for the first time on the big screen. Attendance was good but many missed the rare opportunity to see part of

Wichita's past. One year later, on August 20, 2005, in honor of its 40th anniversary, "The Beast From The Beginning of Time" returned to the big screen for one more showing. Tom was there along with Dick Welsbacher to discuss the film and sign autographs. Naturally, one fan in attendance asked why the movie was never released to VHS or DVD. Tom responded that the movie was too dreadful to be released. How wrong he was. Sadly, he never really understood that there really was an audience just waiting for his movie. Tom passed away on June 18, 2010.

There may still be hope for this lost film. In 2007, Joel Sanderson contacted Tom and arranged for the movie to air on his Lawrence, KS, horror program, The Basement Sublet of Horror. This show is now aired in a few other markets across the US in addition to new internet horror site The Monster Channel.



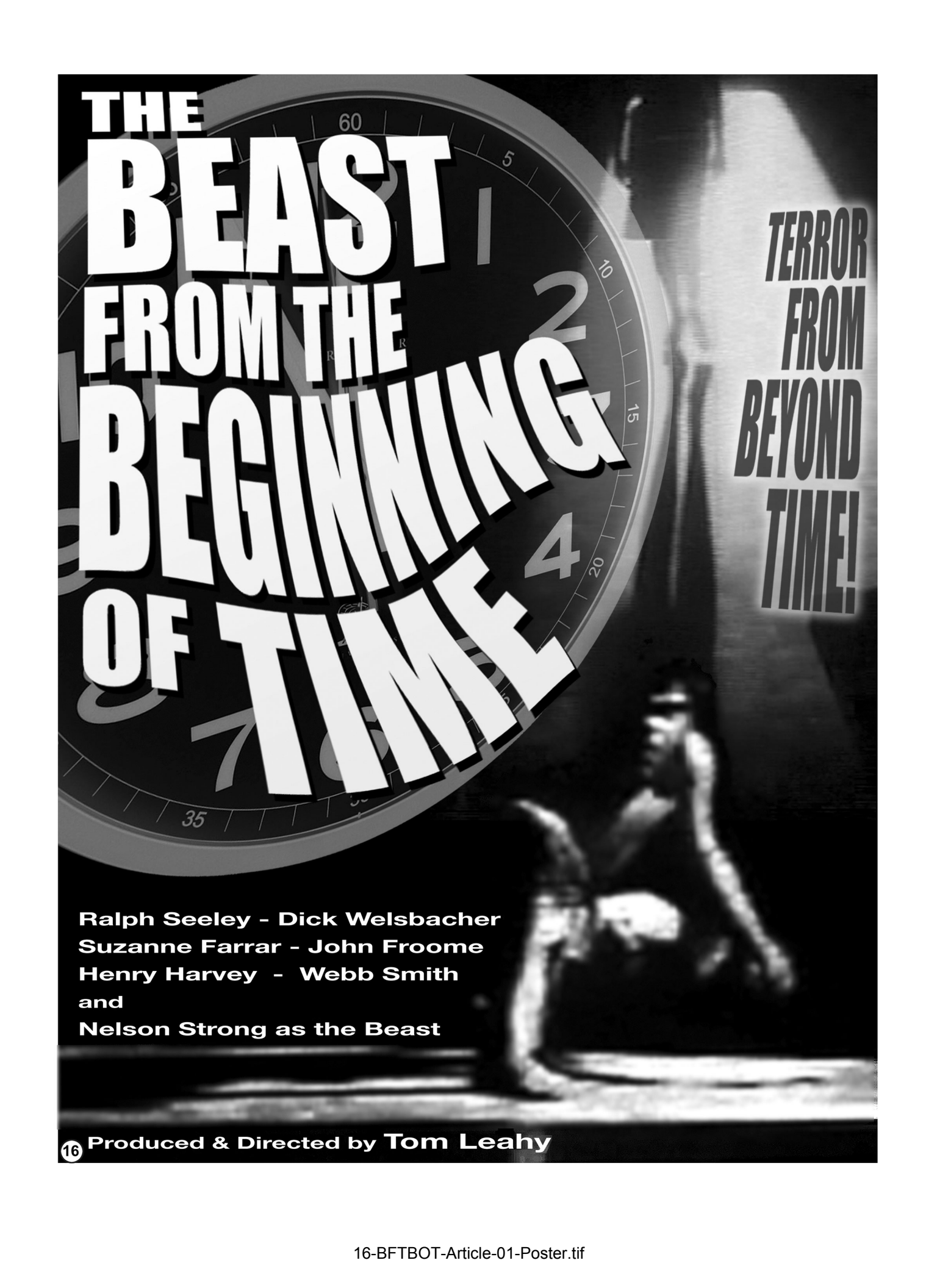
The movie was reviewed in 2010 on the B Movie Cast, one of the most listened-to internet podcasts, hosted by Vince Rotolo. Some 46 years after it was completed, fans are finally seeing and talking about The Beast From The Beginning of Time. It's not a classic film but it is a product of a simpler time, when a movie could be a fun 75-minute escape from reality.

We didn't need big budgets or an Academy Award-winning cast to bring us joy on a Saturday afternoon. All we needed was a caveman who awakes in a new era and begins a rampage of death and destruction. We could laugh at how silly it was, enjoying the cheesy effects enacting without a critical eye.

Take the time to unearth The Beast From The Beginning of Time. It won't be easy to find but once you do, you'll enjoy the fun of discovering a new movie and, hopefully, spending a Saturday afternoon watching it with your kids.





The poster features a large, stylized clock face in the background. The clock has numbers 1 through 12, with smaller numbers for minutes (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60). The title 'THE BEAST FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters, slanted upwards from left to right, and partially overlapping the clock face. To the right of the clock, the text 'TERROR FROM BEYOND TIME!' is written in a similar bold, sans-serif font, with 'TERROR' and 'TIME!' in a slightly larger size than 'FROM BEYOND'. In the lower right, a black and white photograph shows a man in a dark suit running towards the left. The overall background is dark and moody.

# THE BEAST FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

**TERROR  
FROM  
BEYOND  
TIME!**

**Ralph Seeley - Dick Welsbacher  
Suzanne Farrar - John Froome  
Henry Harvey - Webb Smith  
and  
Nelson Strong as the Beast**

**16 Produced & Directed by Tom Leahy**



Creature Feature ran from 1982-1990 on Kansas Cities Channel 41, KSHB. The show was syndicated and was also shown via cable in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. For a brief period during its nine-year run in the '80s, KSHB-TV's "Creature Feature" was carried live. The creepy announcer was Paul Murphy, who also created the voices for Crematia's manservant, Rasputin, and his sidekicks Dweeb and Rolf along with KSHB's Rob Forsythe creating the theme music on a Casio keyboard. Crematia also appears in the 2007 documentary on horror hosts "American Scary."

The following interview is from Crematia Mortem's final public appearance, at a horror convention called "A Feast of Horrors," which was held in Wichita, Kansas in 2007.

**BSOH:** Crematia, good evening, we're glad to have you as a guest here on The Basement Sublet of Horror.

**Crematia:** Hello boys and ghouls, this is Crematia Mortem.

**BSOH:** How did Crematia get her name?

**Crematia:** Crematia got her name, from Walt Bodine, the dean of Kansas City broadcasting. She



was searching for a name that fit her energy and her friend Roberta came up with the name “Crematia” and said “that should be your first name.” Walt Bodine gave her her last name, “Mortem.” For a while, she was married, but she was a hyphenate, Crematia Post-Mortem, but I just kept my married name for simplicity’s sake, you know.

**BSOH:** If you don’t mind, could you give us a brief history of Creature Feature?

**Crematia:** I don’t know that a brief history is possible, there was so much packed into those nine years. But, the Creature Feature began on Kansas City 41 in 1982 and ran until January 1st of 1990 and I’m Crematia Mortem and I was the hostess of the Creature Feature the whole time it was on the air. Which is a good thing because; there wasn’t anyone quite like me you know. And ... the show was shown every Saturday night at 10:30 and then it got later and later, then 11 o’clock, then at 12 o’clock and then it just POOF!... disappeared. So that was the history.

**BSOH:** Can you tell us more about your background?



Crematia readies herself to introduce a film during a convention appearance in 2007.



Crematia poses with the original candelabra from the set of her Kansas City TV show.

**Crematia:** My background? Well ... my mothers name was Desiree, I have a sister named Cremoria, I have a weird cousin Henry, and a manservant named Dweeb, and Rasputin helps me from time to time as well. That’s the only background that’s relevant, I have no other skills, and so my family has to help me.

**BSOH:** Could you tell us about the opening sequence of your show?

**Crematia:** Well, the opening sequence of the show changed from year to year, when I first started of course, the camera just opened on me standing

next to this, well I don’t know if you can see it (gestures to her candelabra), this beautiful, well ... this candelabra, which still, by the way, has the same candle wax on it that it had 17 1/2 years ago. The camera opened on me, standing next to the candelabra and that was it, low budget don’t you know. As the years progressed we changed the opening sequence of the show to include art from



we had to keep them employed you know. But the art from the viewers opened the show year after year and we'd have a contest every year to see who could create the scariest painting that was used to open the Creature Feature.

**BSOH:** Just out of curiosity, are there any unusual behind-the-scenes stories that you could share with us?

**Crematia:** Well, when the Creature Feature came to the end, you know, every week I would step out of my coffin and say "Good evening boys and ghouls it's time for another bad movie." Well when the show was over that coffin stayed in the KSHB studios quite some time, they became an NBC affiliate and Tom Brokaw came in to debut the station as an NBC station in Kansas City, and I wonder if he ever knew that while he was doing the nightly news, right there from Kansas City, there was a coffin behind the news set. He probably didn't know, I wonder what he would have thought if he did, hmm.

**BSOH:** Did you feature any guests on your program?

**Crematia:** I do remember one time, we had a fellow that came on the show and he had designed a giant monster costume made out of paper mache and he got inside it on stilts and we had some beautiful music playing and I was supposed to look across the crowded room and see him, and fall in love and he was supposed to look at me and fall in love. The music swelled and I went "Oh, my love I've waited for you forever" and he looked at me and went (Crematia makes a growling sound) and began to walk across the set with these big clomping shoes of his and he tripped on the rug and all eight feet of him fell like a tree and you could hear it creaking as he fell over and (Crematia makes

a loud thumping sound) he landed on the floor and a big pile of dust went up and from inside this giant paper mache thing I heard (Crematia imitates a muffled voice) "Can you get me out of here." It was very funny, although I didn't laugh at the time and he was fine.

**BSOH:** Are there any remaining early episodes of Creature Features?

**Crematia:** No. There is some archival footage available and I'm trying to compile that and make

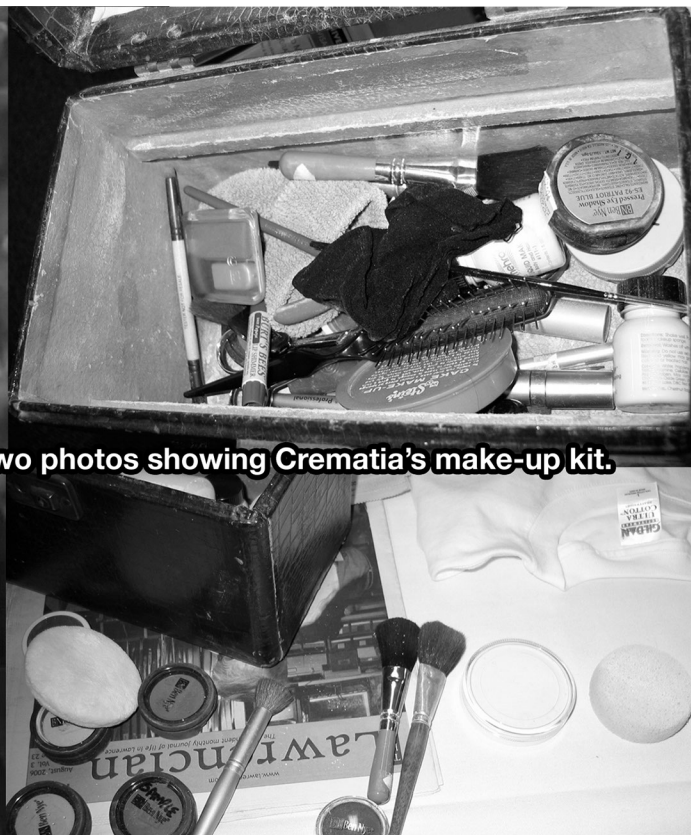


A shot of Crematia on the set of her show from 1987.





Creamtia Mortem, still from 1988



Two photos showing Creamtia's make-up kit.



Creamtia entering the set from her coffin.



Creamtia's convention table top with original artwork from the show.

## **CREMATIA MORTEN, CONTINUED**

that available to viewers. But, we were too cheap to record our shows and keep them every week; we would tape over the last weeks show, so we didn't start archiving the shows until the very end of the Creature Feature when we had seven or eight years under our belt. Every week in the beginning of the show, we would tape what we had done last week. So, there's really no record that I ever existed at all. Pity that!



**Crematia clowning on the set with a prop skull.**

**BSOH:** Have you considered returning to television?

**Crematia:** I'd love to come back on the air, oohh! That would be lovely.

**BSOH:** Are there any plans for new programming with Crematia currently in the works?

**Crematia:** I've been talking with people, unfortunately the people haven't been listening all that much. But there have been some conversations about bringing Crematia and the Creature





## CREMATIA MORTEN, CONTINUED

Feature back to Kansas City television. Stayed tuned to this station for further details.

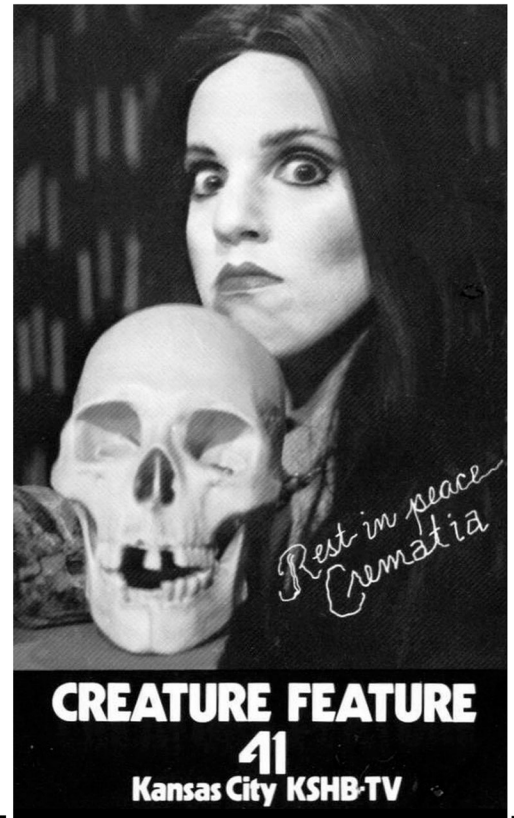
**BSOH:** Thank you Crematia for spending some time with us this evening.

**Crematia:** Ta-ta, boys and ghouls!

In recent years, Crematia's alter ego, Roberta Solomon, has moved on to an incredible career as a voice artist and announcer for clients across the country. You can often hear her as the announcer voice on major motion picture trailers in theaters across the country.

**Editors Note:** This interview was conducted and questions written by Joel Sanderson and Jeff Kilian in 2007. There is a video version of this interview on the Demokitch/Joel Sanderson YouTube Channel.

END



# SHOCKING! ASTOUNDING!



**"The GIANT SPIDER"**



**X • The Fiend From Beyond Space**

*In space no one can hear you die!*



**"HOUSE OF GHOSTS"**

A SPINE-TINGLING MOTION PICTURE THAT WILL FRIGHTEN YOU TO DEATH!

# THE FILMS OF CHRISTOPHER R. MIHM

**WWW.SAINTEUPHORIA.COM**



As I get older, I find that I am more nostalgic for childhood memories. I have visions of late-night creature feature viewings with hostess Crematia Mortem. Surfing through eBay I discover almost every toy I had as a child, including the “Green Ghost” and “Which Witch” games. And what childhood would be complete without the memory of an amusement park. For me, just 45 minutes south of my childhood home in Newton was Wichita’s Joyland Amusement Park.

Joyland was a park with a lot of history before I even stepped foot into it for the first time in the early ‘70s. Joyland opened in June 1949 as a home for a miniature train ride. Herb Ottaway had purchased a 12-gauge miniature train in 1933. This train was built by the Miniature Railway Company in Elgin, Illinois, sometime between 1905 and 1910. Upon restoring it, Ottaway put it on the carnival circuit, where it entertained kids throughout Kansas and Colorado. By 1949, the family opened Joyland primarily to give the train a permanent home. However, the train was quickly overshadowed by the now-legendary wooden roller coaster.





The coaster was designed by legend Herbert Paul Schmeck. It was one of 44 he built and only 33 still exist. This edition remains standing today, although it is no longer functional. It surely terrified many, both kids and parents alike. I often remember hearing my parents wonder how safe it was. Sadly, it was even the cause of a grisly death when a groundskeeper was beheaded after he looked up just as the coaster came barreling through.

Another key attraction was the Whacky Shack. Oh, for a monster kid like me, this was my favorite ride. This was a classic dark ride and the last designed by Bill Tracy. Sadly, I recognize several sections that weren't working by this time. Reportedly, these rides were a nightmare for the operators as they were prone to breaking down. However, when fully functional, it scared the heck out of me back in the '70s. Now, it's probably creepier as it's been vandalized and key pieces have been taken by locals hoping for a piece of this iconic ride.

One of the creepiest aspects of the park was Louie the Clown. He "played" a Wurlitzer organ that could be heard throughout the park. However, the background story surrounding Louie is even

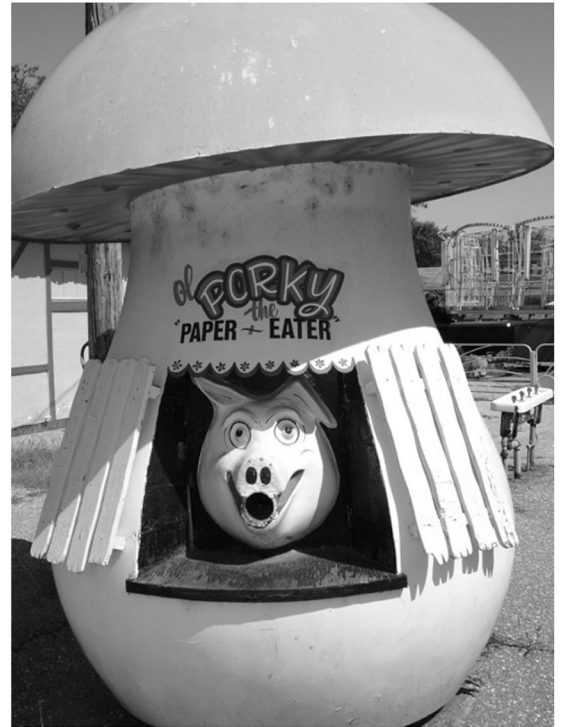


creepier. At the end of every season, Louie would be removed and taken to the home of the one of the maintenance men, who reportedly loved clowns. Around 2006, at the time the park was last open, Louie was declared missing. The gentleman was investigated but Louie was never found. Most believe he is in possession of Louie. Considering the organ sat vacant before finally being sold a few years back, it's safe to say Louie will never see the light of day again. Pleasant dreams!

The Ottaway family sold the park to Stanley and Margaret Nelson in the late '60s, who ran it until mid-2004. The park was in desperate need of repairs. The roller coaster

and Whacky Shack were constantly breaking down. So, the park was quiet until an outfit out of Seattle bought the park in 2006. Grand plans were unveiled to bring the park back to its former glory. However, after reportedly sanctioning underage drinking parties in the park after hours for extra cash, the new owners faced legal action. Financial problems resulting in unpaid vendors shut the park down after only a few months of operation. The roller coaster did reopen briefly, although the parks condition continued to decline. The lights would go out before the end of the season and have never been back on since.

A local restoration group had tried raising the funds to purchase the park. However, with little money raised and several key pieces of Joyland being donated to a preservation society, the group has now folded. The park sign was removed in early June 2014 and the carousel is awaiting restoration at Botanica. Joyland is dead, waiting for someone to finally bury it. Mother Nature has reclaimed the park at an alarming rate. All that's left is nightmares of Louie, the Whacky Shack...and, somewhere, Porky the Paper Eater.





# HAUNTED MEMORIES: JOYLAND IN DECAY PHOTO PAGE





# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR

PROGRAM GUIDE, PART TWO

2014 COMPLETE COLLECTOR CARD LIST  
AND MORE

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## **GUNTHER'S - LIVE EVENT SCRAPBOOK**

**CONTINUED  
FROM OUR  
FIRST ISSUE**

**2011  
HORRORHOUND,  
INDIANAPOLIS**

Legendary late-night host Fritz The Night Owl.

Gunther with good friend, author/screenwriter Michael Varrati during a BSOH interview session.

Convention tip; always take advantage of video and interview opportunities.

With actor Daniel Roebuck from the TV show "Lost"; also known as Dr. Shocker.

There's no escaping a photo op with Ivonna Cadaver, when I declined she grabbed my arm and pulled it over her shoulder. "Of Course You Do," she said.

Our favorite horror actress Barbara Steele, took a moment to pose for a photo.



## GUNTHER'S - LIVE EVENT SCRAPBOOK



**2011  
FREESTATE COMICON  
LAWRENCE**

Gunther meeting Lawrencians at the BSOH table during the Freestate Comicon.



Gunther talks with artist Wes Wedman, while children raid the BSOH giveaway prize stash.



Gunther appearing on the local cable TV talk show "The Not So Late Show" with Mike Anderson.

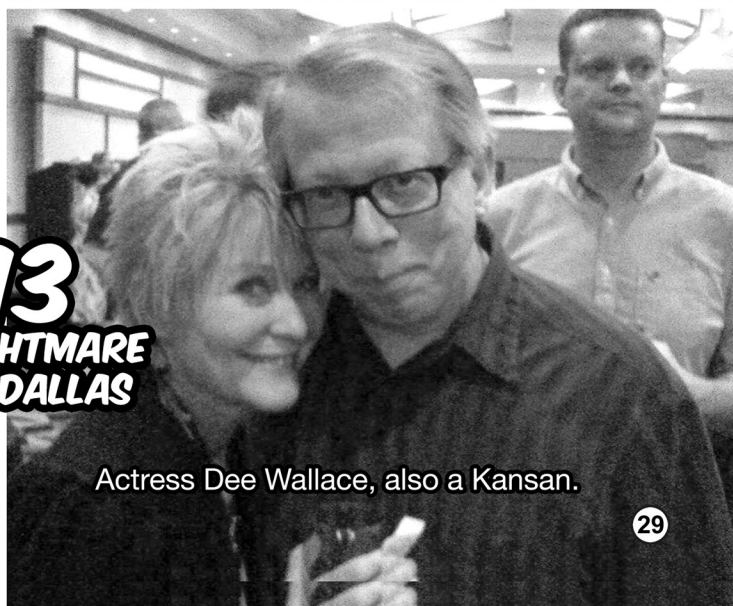


Meeting Maurizio Guarini, keyboard player for the Italian band Goblin.



**2013  
TEXAS FRIGHTMARE  
WEEKEND, DALLAS**

Meeting famed artist Berni Wrightson.



Actress Dee Wallace, also a Kansan.

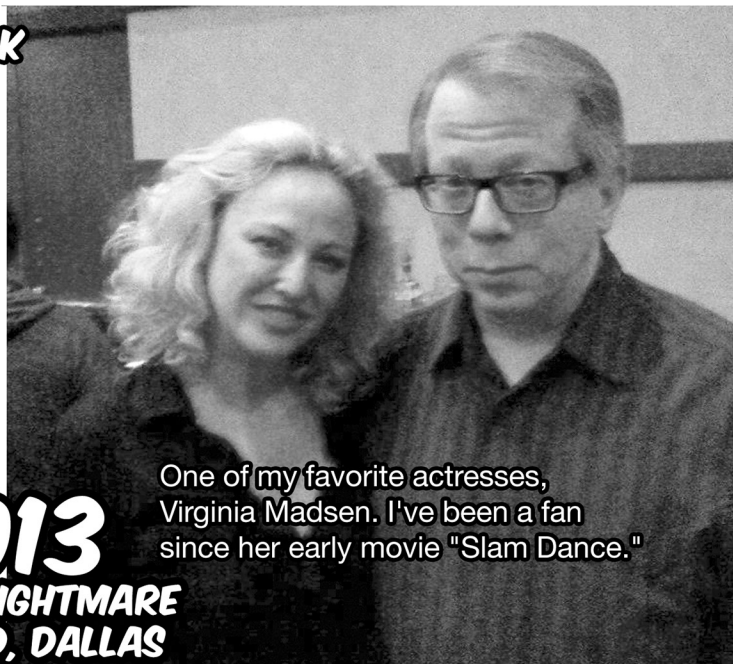


## GUNTHER'S - LIVE EVENT SCRAPBOOK



Pal it up with Denise Crosby from Star Trek The Next Generation.

**2013**  
**TEXAS FRIGHTMARE**  
**WEEKEND, DALLAS**



One of my favorite actresses, Virginia Madsen. I've been a fan since her early movie "Slam Dance."



Ricou Browning and Julie Adams from the original "Creature From The Black Lagoon".

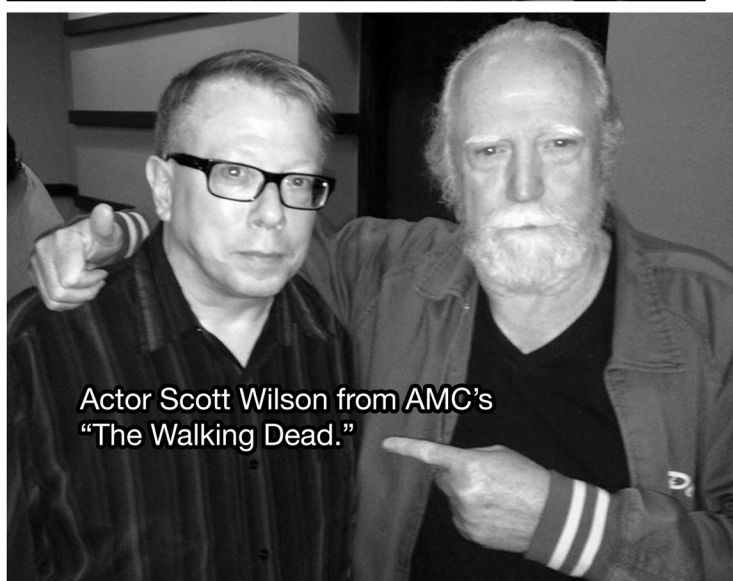
**2014**  
**TEXAS FRIGHTMARE**  
**WEEKEND, DALLAS**



David Emge and Scott H. Reiniger from George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead."



Together with both make-up Tom Savini and director George A. Romero.



Actor Scott Wilson from AMC's "The Walking Dead."

# **THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR - ON THE AIR**

**(OR MAYBE CABLE OR INTERNET)**

## **Current Broadcasts:**

**CATS** (Community Access Television)  
Public Channel  
Bloomington, Indiana  
2012 -  
Producer Seth Tackett

**WCRT** (White Rose Community Television)  
Channel 18  
2010 -  
City of York, Pennsylvania

**Demokitch, YouTube Channel**  
2007-  
youtube.com  
Internet broadcast through YouTube

**Vimeo**  
2009-  
vimeo.com  
Internet Video Service

## **Previous Broadcasts:**

**Channel 99**, Public Access  
Sunflower, Knology, Wow Cable  
Lawrence, Kansas  
2006-2013

**Channel 6**  
Sunflower, Knology, Wow Cable  
Lawrence, Kansas  
2007-2013  
Producers Kevin Hoehns & Neil  
Rasmussen

**The Monster Channel**  
2010-2013  
Internet broadcast through Livestream  
Producer Joe Sena

**Channel 7**  
Cox Cable  
2006-2007  
Wichita Community Arts Channel  
Wichita, Kansas

**Public OnDemand Channel**  
Cox Cable  
2007-2014  
Channels 113, 411  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Producer Laura Carlson

**Trac 7**  
Public Access Channel  
2007-2008  
Duluth/Proctor, Minnesota

**The Vortex, Alternative Realities**  
2010-2011  
Internet broadcast through Livestream  
Sullivan, Indiana

**Alternative Realities**  
2010  
Public Access Program  
Sullivan, Indiana

**Horror Host Graveyard**  
2010  
Public Access Program  
Baldwin, New York

**The Horror Host Underground**  
2006-2007  
Public Access Trade Network  
Dayton, Ohio

**The Not So Late Show**  
Interview guest  
2012  
Channel 6, Sunflower, Knology, Wow  
Cable  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Producers Sue Niccum, Host Mike  
Anderson

**Roku, Internet TV**  
The Escape' Drive-in Channel  
Available Internationally  
2014



## **GUNTHER DEDMUND'S TOP 20 BSOH EPISODES**

### **#1 Episode 309**

#### **Carnival of Souls: Super Expanded**

2 Hour Episode versions, shows were hosted from the "Carnival of Souls" house in Lawrence with many extras.

### **#2 Episode 256**

#### **The Beast From The Beginning of Time**

A Special Edition that's evolved into an extended tribute to horror host, director, writer, and actor, Tom Leahy Jr..

### **#3 Episode 111**

#### **The Brain that Wouldn't Die**

The first episode where the original Film Butcher style of editing came together, which uses various found film to comic effect as the footage is edited into a condensed version of the original feature film.

### **#4 Episode 141**

#### **The Atomic Brain**

Guest host Scott Phillips plays Gunther's landlord in this special episode, where Scott improvised all of his dialogue as the show was being shot.

### **#5 Episode 117**

#### **The Horror Host Special**

Features the last appearance & interview with Cremtia Mortem, KC horror host & featurette on Wichita's horror host show "Nightmare."

### **#6 Episode 142**

#### **Invasion of the Bee Girls**

The "Gore" episode where guest host Jake, of Jake's Mind Repair, gets to the root of Gunther's problems through brain surgery.

### **#7 Episode 211**

#### **Horrorhound 2011 Special**

With the feature film "City of the Dead"

Guest hosted by Count Gregula & featuring a great roster of guest interviews including horror host Fritz the Night Owl & Joe Bob Briggs.

### **#8 Episode 139**

#### **Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter**

Guest host Tex LeBeauf (Scott Phillips) beams into the basement from outer space, performing the partially written songs that Tex is famous for.

### **#9 Episode 134**

#### **Warning From Space**

Probably the strangest episode, where Gunther defends the basement against the invading Japanese monster Gamera who seeks revenge for his feature not being played.

### **#10 Episode 279**

#### **Horror Host Special #3**

Hosted by Wichita movie host Ol' Flick, Jim Erickson With feature "Doctor Blood's Coffin."

Wichita movie host Ol' Flick made a special trip to Lawrence to shoot this guest-hosted episode; we were really honored to have him on the show.

### **#11 Episode 129**

#### **The Screaming Skull**

Gunther battles the Laughing Skull, who attempts to take over the show.

### **#12 Episode 143**

#### **Horror of the Zombies**

Gunther has to leave his hosting duties and activates The Emergency Guest Host.

### **#13 Episode 135**

#### **The Fast and the Furious**

Gunther decides to show a "racy movie," introduces The Gunther Mobile.

Continued on the next page ...



## GUNTHER DEDMUND'S TOP 20 BSOH EPISODES, CONTINUED

### #14 Episode 284

#### Devil Girl From Mars

Hosted by Butch R. Cleaver, who green screened himself into the basement via his basement in Cincinnati.

### #15 Episode 136

#### Wild Women of Wongo

When a viewer complained that Gunther says "Anyway" too much, he turns the show into a drinking game where you drink every time the phrase is said.

### #16 Episode 121

#### Teenagers from Outer Space

This episode was salvaged from the most difficult BSOH shoots ever, where the guest host derailed whole shoot, making Gunther so miserable that he almost stopped the show. Joel calls this shoot "One of the worst nights of my life."

### #17 Episode 101

#### Atom Age Vampire

We still like the combining of making coffee with the atomic creation machinery.

### #18 Episode 103

#### They Came From Beyond Space

We couldn't pass up on a movie based on the novel "The Gods Hate Kansas."

### #19 Episode 112

#### The Last Man on Earth

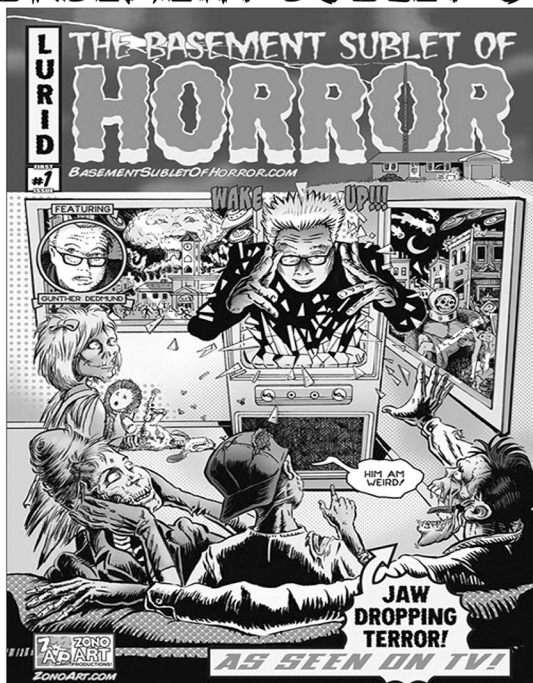
Gunther takes this Vincent Price classic and turns it on it's head, making the whole vampire feature into a farce.

### #20 Episode 119

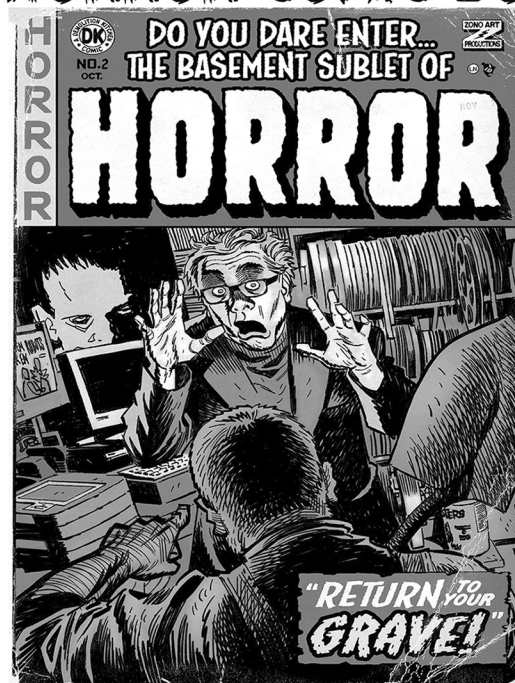
#### The Last Woman on Earth

Features the introduction of Richard Wayne Space Cadet, outtakes from an experiment to create a sci-fi host show.

## THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR COMIC BOOKS



ISSUE #1



ISSUE #2

**BOTH HORRIFYING ISSUES ON SALE NOW!**

DEMOLITION KITCHEN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR

# VIRTUAL HORROR CONVENTION 2014

**FEATURED GUESTS:**

**Ronald Trenenbaug**

**Robert T. Brick**

**James Flipperson**

**Richard Wayne**

**Gunther Dedmund**

**THE PLACE TO BE  
OF HORROR**

**- AMAZING FILMS  
- SPECIAL GUESTS  
- WONDEROUS MERCH  
- SCARY BREAD**

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# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR

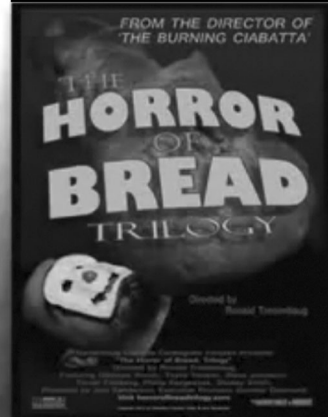
## VIRTUAL HORROR CONVENTION

FEATURING GUNTHER DEDMUND

Home Tickets Merch Hotel Events Contact Store

In 2012 BSOH staged an elaborate online prank, a "Virtual Online Horror Convention." Even creating tickets, guest interviews, along with a souvenir T-shirt. Gunther had a great time putting this all together, just an unconventional convention parody that maybe hits too close to home for some people. Well, it's all in fun and part of the humor of BSOH, which is a dry sense of parody of the horror genre.

Here are some screen shots from the original web site.



Visit the interactive version of the Virtual Horror Convention online:  
[www.basementsubletofhorror.com/BSOHcon](http://www.basementsubletofhorror.com/BSOHcon)

The Convention will be held at Hotel 0  
For booking information, please call ahead.

Hotel 0 is one of the finest hotels in the area, featuring many outstanding features you can take advantage of during your stay. Your mattress will be waiting right outside your spacious room.





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF  
'THE BURNING CIABATTA'

# THE HORROR OF BREAD TRILOGY

Directed by  
Ronald Trenanbaug

Trenanbaug Ciabatta Conflagrate Pictures Presents

"The Horror of Bread: Trilogy"

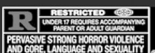
Directed by Ronald Trenanbaug

Featuring Glennda Woods, Taylor Hooper, Steve Jacobson,  
Trover Fidoberg, Phillip Bezgeezas, Shakey Smith.

Produced by Joel Sanderson, Executive Producer Gunther Dedmund

Visit [horrorofbreadtrilogy.com](http://horrorofbreadtrilogy.com)

THE BASEMENT SUBLET of HORROR



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# BSOH VIRTUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED EVENTS

All events are included with paid convention admission.



**Ronald Trenenbaug**, Director of "The Horror of Bread Trilogy"

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION APPEARANCE:**

Convention Screening Room, 8 p.m. Friday

We're extremely excited to bring Ronald Trenenbaug to our convention for a personal screening of the entire "Horror of Bread Trilogy," all five hours in one evening. Preceding the showing Ronald will stage a short history of the film including his childhood working in his parents bakery followed by a Q&A session. Here's rare opportunity to learn more about this fascinating director and taunt him with small loafs of bread (which we will provide).



**Robert T. Brick**, Director of "The Creeping Shoes"

**LECTURE APPEARANCE:**

**"Planning Your Career Film"**

Main convention ballroom A, 8 p.m. Saturday

Robert T. Brick, director of the '70s horror classic "The Creeping Shoes." In his first lecture appearance at the BSOH Con he'll teach you everything you need to know to get that one film made, then how to spend the rest of your time scheduling lecture and convention appearances. It's an effective strategy for survival in the modern film world; you'll be amazed and inspired at just how far, or how low a person will go to keep from working again.



**Richard Wayne**, Anchor for Channel News Action Team

**LECTURE APPEARANCE:**

**"Writing Fake News for a Fake World"**

Convention exhibition room C, 4 p.m. Sunday

Richard Wayne has been a news journalist for the past 20 years covering a variety of stories for the public access news program "Channel News." He leads their "Action News Team" with hard hitting stories about local food, gossip and zombie attacks. In his first public appearance ever. We are excited to present this lecture where he "Spills the beans on journalism" and that it doesn't matter because it's all completely fake anyway.



**Gunther Dedmund**, Host of The Basement Sublet of Horror

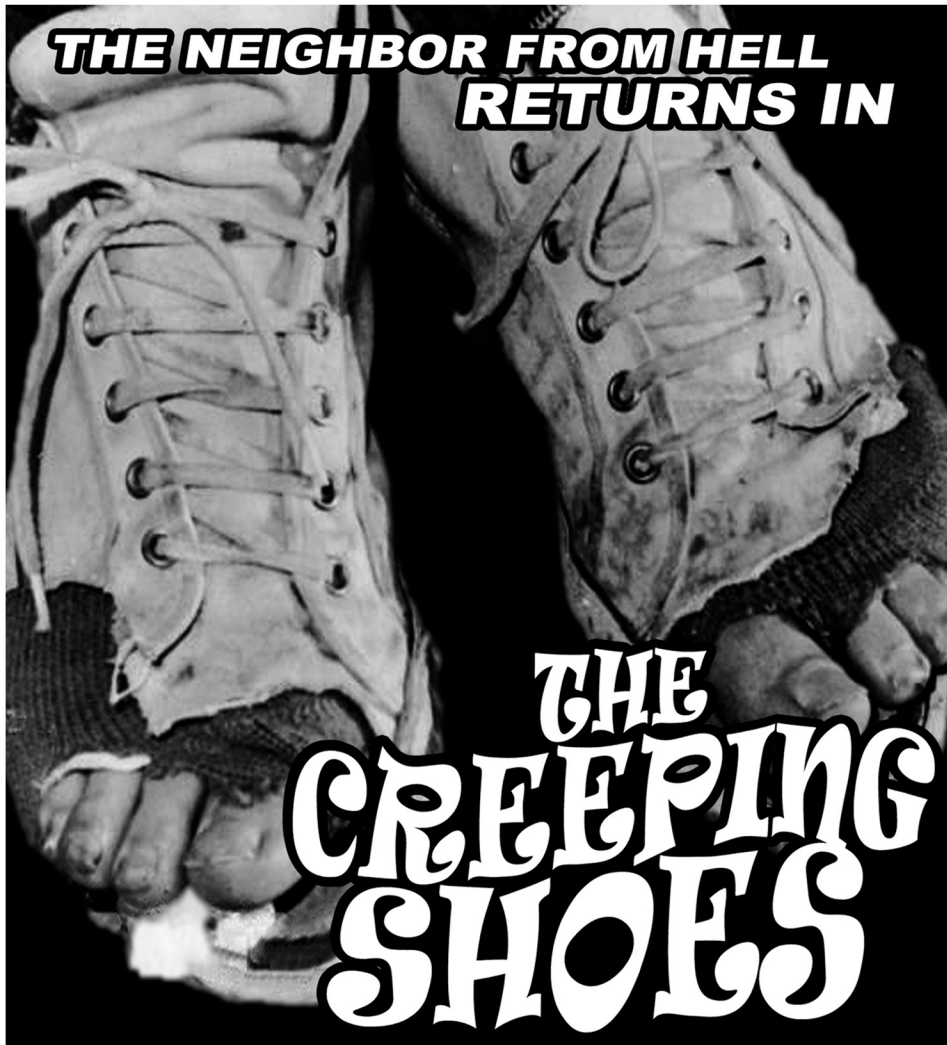
**SPECIAL PRESENTATION APPEARANCE:**

**"Of Horror, My Life Of Fear!"**

Convention storage room A, 6 p.m. Sunday

Horror Host Secrets. The well-known horror host and film historian will be presenting examples of his early works, comments on the state of horror hosting and a short talk on "How to be a Horror Host."

**THE NEIGHBOR FROM HELL  
RETURNS IN**



**THE  
CREEPING  
SHOES**

Malodorous Productions Presents  
"The Creeping Shoes"  
Directed by Robert Brick  
Featuring Tapdance Eddie Lolita Chagrin, Laslo Pinchingcorns  
Produced by Joel Sanderson, Executive Producer Gunther Dedmund  
Visit [TheCreepingShoesMovie.com](http://TheCreepingShoesMovie.com)

R RESTRICTED  
Some material may be inappropriate for children under 17  
Parents Strongly Cautioned  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 17

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THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR

**SCI-FI  
HOME  
MOVIES  
REG 8 AND  
SUPER 8!  
200' REELS!**

**WAR OF THE  
COLOSSAL BEAST**



**TROG**



**WAR OF THE PLANETS**



## BSOH MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

### Ben Urish

(Contributing writer)

Ben has been collaborating with Demolition Kitchen since it's beginnings in 1985. Appearing under the name Keith Gist, he has been featured on a number of our audio recorded releases. He is currently a professor of American Studies and has published several books, including one on the life of musician John Lennon. Ben also contributed to the first issue of this magazine.



### Richard Chamberlain

(Contributing writer)

A regular routine for Richard growing up was watching the Saturday night Creature Feature with Crematia Mortem on channel 41KSHB out of Kansas City. His blog is called Monster Movie Kid, and he has co-hosted several podcasts, including the B-Movie Podcast with Vince Rotolo and Monster Kid Radio with Derek M. Koch.



### Roberta Solomon

A versatile voice actor, Roberta is heard daily on network promos, documentaries, topical news promos, national commercials, and as the image voice of scores of radio and TV stations. She is one of only a handful of women to voice movie trailers. While still in college, she donned a corset and made the leap to TV as a horror host. Her creepy alter ego, Crematia Mortem, continues to receive fan mail. Crematia was recently inducted into the Horror Host Hall of Fame, along with Elvira and Joe Bob Briggs.





# THE BASEMENT SUBLET OF HORROR COMPLETE COLLECTOR CARD CHECKLIST



- ☐ 01 Atom Age Vampire
- ☐ 02 House of the Basement Sublet
- ☐ 03 Gunther Dedmund
- ☐ 04 They Came From Beyond Space
- ☐ 05 The Wasp Woman
- ☐ 06 Hercules and the Haunted World
- ☐ 07 Shrews 'N' Sauce
- ☐ 08 Cardboard Bomb Shelter
- ☐ 09 Project Kill
- ☐ 10 The Giant Gila Monster
- ☐ 11 The Killer Shrews
- ☐ 12 Giant Gila Monster Jerky
- ☐ 13 The Last Prom
- ☐ 14 Richard Wayne, Channel News Action Team
- ☐ 15 Gunther Dedmund #2
- ☐ 16 The House on Haunted Hill
- ☐ 17 Killers From Space
- ☐ 18 The Brain That Wouldn't Die
- ☐ 19 The Neighbor
- ☐ 20 The Last Man On Earth
- ☐ 21 Attack of the Monsters
- ☐ 22 David Nickol, cameraman
- ☐ 23 In the Kitchen
- ☐ 24 Creature From The Haunted Sea
- ☐ 25 The Magnificent Gladiator
- ☐ 26 The Landlord
- ☐ 27 Night of the Blood Beast
- ☐ 28 The Film Butcher
- ☐ 29 The Neighbor as Renfield Chromosone
- ☐ 30 Carnival of Souls
- ☐ 31 The Holiday Frozen Dinner
- ☐ 32 The Last Woman On Earth
- ☐ 33 Santa Claus Conquers The Martians
- ☐ 34 Missile Launch
- ☐ 35 The Adventures of Richard Wayne Space Cadet
- ☐ 36 Attack of the Giant Leeches
- ☐ 37 Italian Zombie Guest
- ☐ 38 Bill Jamison, Gets Abducted
- ☐ 39 Teenagers From Outer Space
- ☐ 40 Talk Show
- ☐ 41 The Kinescopic Telescope
- ☐ 42 A Bucket of Blood
- ☐ 43 Crematia Mortem
- ☐ 44 Richard Wayne's Day Job #1
- ☐ 45 Richard Wayne's Day Job #2

- ☐ 46 Of Horror
- ☐ 47 The Host & Rodney
- ☐ 48 Investigative Report
- ☐ 49 Teenage Zombies
- ☐ 50 Gunther's New Show Format
- ☐ 51 The Screaming Skull
- ☐ 52 Wild West Film Fest: Scare Factor
- ☐ 53 The Bloody Pit Of Horror
- ☐ 54 The Laughing Skull
- ☐ 55 Hunting For Food
- ☐ 56 Gunther Wild West Film Fest Juror
- ☐ 57 I Bury The Living
- ☐ 58 Rusty Trees T.V. Cowboy
- ☐ 59 Wild West Film Fest Promo
- ☐ 60 The Beast From The Beginning Of Time
- ☐ 61 Wild Women of Wongo
- ☐ 62 Guthur Versus Gamera
- ☐ 63 Ghost Rider
- ☐ 64 The Fast & The Furious
- ☐ 65 Warning From Space
- ☐ 66 The Gunther Mobile
- ☐ 67 Bride of the Gorilla
- ☐ 68 How Many Times Does Gunther Say "Anyway"?



- ☐ 69 H.O. Racing Is Cool!
- ☐ 70 The Latest News From Japan
- ☐ 71 Jessie James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter
- ☐ 72 Lonesome Gunther
- ☐ 73 Herk Harvey
- ☐ 74 A New Landlord
- ☐ 75 The Atomic Brain
- ☐ 76 Brubaker's Caffeine Pills
- ☐ 77 Tex LeBeauf
- ☐ 78 Rap JackRabbit
- ☐ 79 Jake's Mind Repair
- ☐ 80 Horror Of The Zombies
- ☐ 81 Fan Appreciation Card: Nancy Trober, Eudora, KS
- ☐ 82 Dementia 13
- ☐ 83 Invasion Of The Bee Girls
- ☐ 84 Emergency Guest Host
- ☐ 85 Jason Willis
- ☐ 86 Brain Surgery?
- ☐ 87 All Hail, Doktor Goulfinger
- ☐ 88 Vengeance of the Zombies
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- ☐ 102 Enroll Now!
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